

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Appn. Number: _____

Appn. Filed: _____

Applicant(s): welch

Appn. Title: Method of Providing Audio Format --

Examiner/GAU: 1324

Mailed: With Application
At: _____

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Sir:

Attached is a completed Form PTO-1449 and copies of the pertinent parts of the references cited thereon.
Following are comments on these references pursuant to Rule 98:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

Patent to Allison, No. 6,546,230 which describes a method for assessing the skills of medical professionals and involves a medical professional accessing a competency test over a network link. Based on the results of the test a medical professional is provided a list of courses over the network link which might or might not be available over the network. As the courses are not necessarily available over the network, repeated accessing of updated versions thereof over said network is not obviated.

Patent No. 5,794,207 to Walker et al. is focused on bilateral buyer-driven commerce, but is cited primarily as it is very enlightening regarding the Internet and regarding basic Contract and U.C.C. Law etc.

Patent to Chao et al., No. 6,325,632, is disclosed because it describes a computer-aided learning method and systems for matching students with instructors.

Patent No. 5,926,796 to Walker et al. is cited as it describes a system and method for facilitating sale and distribution of retail subscriptions to periodicals.

Additional known Patents to Walker et al. are Nos. 5,797,127, 5,897,620 and 5,825,863, the first two of which focus on pricing and selling etc. of airline tickets, and the later of which focuses on prepaid limited usage calling cards.

Patent No. 5,793,980 to Glasser et al., which describes an Audio-On-Demand Communication System which focuses on providing access to audio, such as news or music, or having a book read over the internet. The invention is focused on a system and method for sending a data stream at a rate controlled by acknowledgement markers sent from a receiving computer, which acknowledgement markers control data flow to said receiver.

Patent No. 5,732,216 to Logan et al., describes an audio message exchange system and method in which a listener can input audio format data.

Patent No. 5,793,762 to Penners et al., describes a system and method for providing packet data and voice services to mobile subscribers.

Patent No. 5,819,032 to deVires, describes an electronically distributed magazine which provides for a reader thereof to submit comment relating to an article therein.

Patent No. 5,884,324 to Cheng et al., describes a method and system for receiving a subscription message from Client computer wherein the subscription message specifies a remote data base table and replication period.

Patent No. 5,956,697 to Usui describes a timer-based fee-charging Internet system which provides an authentication server to confirm if a subscriber should be allowed to gain access.

Patent No. 5,956,716 to Kenner et al., describes a system and method for delivery of video clips, optionally accompanied by audio.

Patent No. 6,049,829 to Li describes an information access system and method in which factors such as proximity, speed, server capacity, server loading, backbone and access network bandwidths and placement and access mechanisms of servers are considered regarding ease of acquiring information.

Patents Nos. 6,018,767 to Fijolek et al., and 5,943,422 to Van Wie et al. are also disclosed as they were turned-up in a Search effort, although not felt to be particularly relevant.

Sincerely,
JAMES D. WELCH
Reg. No. 31,216

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT

Welch

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GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
AA	6546230	4/2003	Allison	434	350	
AB	5794207	8/1998	Walker et al.	705	23	
AC	6325632	12/2001	Chao et al.	434	322	
AD	59126796	7/1999	Walker et al.	705	16	
AE	5797127	8/1998	Walker et al.	705	5	
AF	5897620	4/1999	Walker et al.	705	5	
AG	5825863	10/1998	Walker	379	144	
AH	5793980	8/1998	Glasser et al.	395	200.61	
AI	5732216	3/1998	Logan et al.	395	200.33	
AJ	5793762	8/1998	Penner et al.	370	389	
AK	5819032	10/1998	De Urias et al.	395	200.8	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
						YES
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AM						

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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Form PTO-1449
Rev. 1-88U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
AA	5 884324	3/1999	Cheng et al.	701	201	
AB	5 956697	9/1999	Usui	705	32	
AC	5 956716	9/1999	Kenner et al.	707	10	
AD	6 049829	4/2000	Li	709	229	
AE	6 018767	1/2000	Fjolset et al	709	218	
AF	5 9434228	1/2000	Van Wie et al	380	9	
AG						
AH						
AI						
AJ						
AK						

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